



(Part No : 7, Page No: 20)

(Part No : 7, Page No: 21)

The Makruh (reprehensible) acts that distract a person during Salah

(Part No : 7, Page No: 22)

1- Looking upward and closing eyes

Fourth question from Fatwa No. 6895

Q 4: Does looking upward in Salah (Prayer) nullify it? Is it Makruh or is there no harm in doing so? What is the ruling on the little and big movements in Salah? What is the ruling on waving your hand in Salah?

A: The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) forbade looking towards the sky in Salah and threatened those who do so. It is related in Sahih [Al-Bukhari](#) and others on the authority of Anas (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: [﴿ What is wrong with the people who look towards the sky during the Salah? His talk grew stern while delivering this speech and he said: They should stop \(looking towards the sky during the prayer\); otherwise their eye-sight will be taken away. ﴾](#) This is a terrible threat indicating prohibition, yet does not make Salah invalid. As for the ruling of moving in Salah such as a person playing with their hand in one's beard, leg, clothes or so, it is prohibited. Because it is narrated in the Sunan of [Al-Tirmidhy](#) that the Prophet (peace be upon him) saw a man playing with something in Salah then he said: [﴿ Had this man's heart been submissive, his organs would have shown submission. ﴾](#) If the movement is irrelevant to Salah

(Part No : 7, Page No: 23)

and is repeated many times, it makes one's Salah invalid. Waving with the hand is permissible in Salah in case it is necessary according to the Hadith narrated in [Al-Bukhari](#) and [Muslim](#) on the authority of [`Aisha and Jabir ibn `Abdullah](#) (may Allah be pleased with them both) which states: When the Prophet (peace be upon him) led the Sahabah (Companions of the Prophet) in Salah while he was sitting as he was ill. When he saw the Sahabah was standing behind him, he waved to them to sit.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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